AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A measuring probe, comprising:

means for accessing data flows composed of packets, transmitted along a path formed by a multiplicity of equipment in a telecommunication network;

measurement means for performing measurements, in accordance with configuration data;

determination means for determining that one or more packets transmitted along the said path form a signaling message; and

signaling means for determining said configuration data from said signaling message

wherein said measurement means are operable to transmit measurement reports, containing said measurements, to a measuring device determined by an identifier contained in said configuration data; and

said measurements are transmitted to said measuring device by means of a proxy, the measurement reports transmitted to said proxy containing said identifier.

2. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, wherein said measurements are relative to said data flow.

3-4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, wherein said determination means are operable to read a specific label, contained in said received message, and determine whether the said received message is a signaling message from this specific label.

6. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, wherein said configuration base contains a set of records, each record corresponding to a measurement task and each record comprising:

a filter which determines the packets on which the measurements must be performed; and

parameters relating to the method of measurement.

7. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 6, in which said parameters are chosen from the group of factors comprising:

the time during which the measurements must be performed;

sampling data

a hashing function;

a parameter triggering a time-stamping of the packets to be measured;

a parameter triggering an identification of the packets to be measured, by means of a hashing function;

a parameter triggering a counting of the packets to be measured;

a method for transmitting the measurements to the measuring device (M).

8. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, wherein the transmissions with the measuring device are made secure.

9. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 8, wherein means for making the transmissions with the measuring device secure are transmitted by a signaling message.

10. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

means for deciding whether said signaling means creates a new measurement task, in accordance with a sensitivity indicator associated with said measuring probe.

11. (previously presented): The measuring probe in accordance with claim 10, wherein said means for deciding also decides as a function of a priority contained in the said received message.

12. (currently amended): ~~The~~ A router comprising ~~a~~ the measuring probe in accordance with claim 1.

13. (previously presented): The telecommunication network comprising measuring probes in accordance with claim 1.

14. (previously presented): The telecommunication network in accordance with claim 13, further comprising measuring devices.

15. (previously presented): A method for taking measurements of data flows composed of packets, transmitted along a path formed by a multiplicity of equipment in a telecommunication network, the method comprising:

performing measurements, in accordance with configuration data;

determining that one or more packets transmitted along the said path form a signaling message;

determining said configuration data from said signaling message;

transmitting measurement reports, containing said measurements, to a measuring device determined by an identifier contained in said configuration data; and

transmitting said measurements to said measuring device by means of a proxy, the measurement reports transmitted to said proxy containing said identifier.

16. (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein said measurements are relative to said data flow.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein said determining comprises reading a specific label, contained in said received message, and determining whether said received message is a signaling message from this specific label.

18. (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein said configuration base contains a set of records, each record corresponding to a measurement task and each record comprising:

a filter which determines the packets on which the measurements must be performed; and

parameters relating to the method of measurement.

19. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, in which said parameters are chosen from the group of factors comprising:

the time during which the measurements must be performed;

sampling data

a hashing function;

a parameter triggering a time-stamping of the packets to be measured;

a parameter triggering an identification of the packets to be measured, by means of a hashing function;

a parameter triggering a counting of the packets to be measured;

a method for transmitting the measurements to the measuring device (M).

20. (currently amended): The method of claim 15 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the transmissions with the measuring device are made secure.

21. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein means for making the transmissions with the measuring device secure are transmitted by a signaling message.

22. (currently amended): The method of claim 15 ~~claim 1~~, further comprising:

deciding whether a new measurement task is created, in accordance with a sensitivity indicator associated with said measuring probe.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said deciding is decided as a function of a priority contained in said received message.

24. (previously presented): A router comprising a measuring probe implementing the method of claim 15.

25. (previously presented): A measuring probe, comprising:

means for accessing data flows composed of packets, transmitted along a path formed by a multiplicity of equipment in a telecommunication network, said data flows passing through said measuring probe;

measurement means for performing measurements, in accordance with configuration data;

determination means for determining that one or more packets transmitted along the said path form a signaling message; and

signaling means for determining said configuration data from said signaling message;

wherein said determining comprises reading a specific label, contained in said one or more packets, and determining whether said one or more packets are a signaling message from this specific label.

26. (previously presented): The measuring probe of claim 25, wherein said signaling message triggers an establishment of a new measurement task.

27. (previously presented): The measuring probe of claim 25, wherein said signaling message triggers a modification of a measurement task.

28. (previously presented): The measuring probe of claim 25, wherein said signaling message triggers a deletion of a measurement task.

29. (previously presented): The measuring probe of claim 25, wherein said signaling message comprises two or more packets.